



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **DTSC to Assess Contamination of Mine-Scarred Lands in Jackson and Sutter Creek**

SACRAMENTO - The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) was recently awarded a \$200,000 brownfields assessment grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will target sites contaminated by mining wastes in the Jackson and Sutter Creek areas.

“By assessing toxic wastes left behind from past mining activities, we are paving the way for these brownfield sites to be brought back to productive use,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “This will help ensure that communities and the downstream groundwater environment are protected from the toxic legacy of our mining past.”

Brownfields are sites where expansion, redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.

The cities of Jackson and Sutter Creek, with a combined population of approximately 7,000, are located in the Sierra Nevada foothills in the heart of California's historic Mother Lode gold mining region. The cities have developed around the historic mining activities that are their origins. As a result, there are many mines, mining features and mining wastes within their communities.

DTSC's grant will focus on the assessment of mining wastes on public lands and high-priority development projects in the area. The grant funds will be used to inventory mining-related brownfield sites, incorporate survey information into a geographic information system, conduct environmental site assessments to identify contaminated areas, and provide recommendations for cleanup planning.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.***